

**Proverbs and Parenting**  
**Wielding Wisdom with our children**  
**Shepherd's Wives 2024 Andrea Kolstad**

- 1. Foundation of Proverbs- considering wisdom literature**
- 2. Function of Proverbs- comparison through parallelism**
- 3. Fight of Proverbs- authority, eternity, practically**

**1. Foundation of Proverbs**

The Book of Proverbs resides within the **wisdom literature** of the OT.

The wisdom literature emphasizes \_\_\_\_\_.

- **(vs1-4) Purpose**
- **(vs 4-5) People**
- **(vs6) Process**

Biblical Proverbs are different for they speak to man's relationship and behavior to other men \_\_\_\_\_.

**Proverbs are not promises but maxims.**

**(Vs7)** Starting Position of the skill required to understand Proverbs is the \_\_\_\_\_.

According to Charles Bridges, "**The FOL is that affectionate reverence by which the child of God bends himself humbly and carefully to His Father's Law.**"

FOL isn't mere emotion or posture- it is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_!

**Prov. 3:7** "Do not be wise in your own eyes, **Fear the Lord** and turn away from evil,"

**Prov. 16:6** "By the **fear of the Lord** one keeps away from evil."

**Rom. 3:11-18** "There is no **fear of God** before their eyes," therefore, they sin!

**Ecc. 12:13** "The conclusion of the matter: **Fear God** and Keep His commandments."

Wisdom is **Divine**.

**I Tim. 1:7** "God, who **ALONE** is **wise**"

**Job 9:4** "God is **wise** in heart and mighty in strength.."

**Job 12:13** "With Him are **wisdom** and strength.."

**Lk. 2:52** "Jesus increased in **wisdom** and stature.."

**I Cor. 1:20-31** "..Christ became to us **wisdom** from God.."

**Col. 2:2-3** "In Christ are hidden all the treasures of **wisdom** and knowledge"

**Isa. 11:2** "..The Spirit of **wisdom** and understanding.."

Wisdom is **MORAL**. Wisdom is **PRACTICAL**. Wisdom is an **ONGOING** pursuit.

**“Wisdom is practical, moral skillful living for the glory of God,” Dr. John Street.**

## **2. Function of Proverbs-**

Proverbs put wisdom on display through \_\_\_\_\_. **Proverbs 10-29 compares the wise man and the fool through the literary device of parallelism.** One definition explains, **“Parallelism suggests a connection of meaning through an echo of form”** (words, phrases or clauses). The use of Parallelism in Proverbs:

- a. identical/synonymous- 16:18**
- b. opposite/antithetical- 11:17**
- c. expansive- 10:18**
- d. comparative- 25:25**
- e. formal (second line completes the idea of the first)- 16:7**
- f. Comparison by simile (using like or as) and metaphor (w/o like or as)**

## **Practicing Parallelism and Probing**

- a.**
- b.**
- c.**
- d.**
- e.**

## **From parallelism to probing**

- Who/What is the Proverb comparing?
- What are they like?
- How are they identified or recognized?
- What fruit/way is more pleasing to God?
- How does the way more pleasing to God bless man/me?
- Who are you like? The wise man or the fool?
- What is the fool thinking/wanting? The wise man?
- If I obey the wisdom of Proverbs, how will the situation improve?
- How is Christ our ultimate example? Can I think of a time Christ demonstrated the wisdom in this Proverb?

### 3. Fight of Proverbs.

#### The Authority of Proverbs

“My Son, Listen.”

Proverbs assume we are all under \_\_\_\_\_!

**1:8, 1:10, 2:1, 3:1, 3:11, 4:1....** Proverbs assume what Eph 6:4 commands. Raise our children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. We are their authority and are to instruct. The authority with which parents speak comes from God. No gentle parenting! Kids aren't your peers. You have been given a charge by God to raise them in the fear and admonition of the Lord, instruct them, train them. **Prov. 22:6.**

#### The Eternal Focus of Proverbs

Each decision is a step on a Path. Each Path has a \_\_\_\_\_, and each Direction has an Eternal \_\_\_\_\_. **Prov. 2:20-22, 4:26**

#### The Specific Instruction of Proverbs

Know your child's heart struggles and \_\_\_\_\_.

How do we specifically instruct with the Proverbs?

- **Resources:** *Practicing Proverbs by Richard Mayhue. Proverbs for Parenting by Barbara Decker.*
- Dissect the parallelism
- Teach by \_\_\_\_\_
- Admonish and Exhort according to levels of folly.
  - **Type of Fools in Proverbs**
    - Simple/Naive-**
    - Fool-**
    - Scoffer-**
- Take them to Christ and His perfect example of Wisdom. Use other \_\_\_\_\_ examples.
- Memorize and pray together.
- \_\_\_\_\_ for next opportunity to walk in wisdom. **Prov. 15:28**